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CHICAGO, ILL.
TRIBUNE

M. 831,904
S. 1,138,268

JUN 1 1966

Rock a New Cary Grant? He's Up, Down

BY CLIFFORD TERRY

The producers of "Blindfold" apparently are trying to pass off Rock Hudson as Cary Grant's successor in those slick, so-called sophisticated comedy-adventures, but try as he may, as long as he's up he never is Grant.

Actually, Rock is down most of the time, taking punches on the mouth from the standard assortment of espionage thugs, retaliating with fire-extinguisher foam, and grappling with the National Security agency, the CIA, the FBI, the New York police, alligators, quicksand, a stubborn mule, and Claudia Cardinale.

Cast as Bartholomew Snow,

a playboy psychiatrist, Rock is horsing around in Central park when he is interrupted on the bridal path by an NSA general [Jack Warden].

It seems that the doctor once treated a man who is now a prominent physicist and an espionage kidnaping target. Since he is in need of medical

thought of going to a colleague and getting your head examined?"] the script naturally has all the symptoms of *deja vu*. Eventually, Dr. Rock tries to settle things in his own way without interference from the NSA, CIA, FBI, or New York police, as the draggy denouement in a southern swamp ends with one of those gigantic explosions that Hollywood seems to have a thing about.

"BLINDFOLD"

Directed by Philip Dunne, produced by Marvin Schwartz, screenplay by Philip Dunne and W. H. Menger, based on the novel by Lucille Fletcher, a Universal Pictures release, at the State Lake theater.

THE CAST

Dr. Bartholomew Snow	Rock Hudson
Vicky Vincenti	Claudia Cardinale
Fitzpatrick	Guy Stockwell
General Prof	Jack Warden
Harrigan	Brad Dexter
Smitty	Anne Seymour
Arthur	Alejandro Rey
Captain Davis	Harl Rhodes

help again, the Snow job is to go to the scientist, who is salted away in a secret location. Snapping his fingers, Warden snaps out: "You'll come into this, as it were, blindfolded." That, as it were, is the first of many mentions of the eye covering, as if the subtlety of the title needs continual clarification.

Larded with the usual tired psychiatry jokes ["Have you suitable headside manner

Warden is competent as the finger-snapping government agent whose main complaint is that "security involves human beings," and Anne Seymour stands out as the doctor's secretary, but Guy Stockwell is wasted in the ludicrous role of a stuttering spy. Miss Cardinale, who has replaced Doris Day, is cast as a nightclub chorine and sister of the physicist, and as it turns out, C. C. is a welcome change from D. D.

As for Rock, he is no better, no worse than in his previous outings, as he swaps pillow talk for couch chatter in an awkward attempt to bring off a

suitable headside manner.